

Weekly Police Beat for the week ending March 29, 2019

Man Charged via Civil Citation for Possession of Marijuana

Alert resident witnessed man smoking in park at Oliver & Cedar

On Wednesday, March 27, 2019 shortly before 10:00 p.m., a resident called the Village Communications Center to report two people sitting on a bench in the park at Oliver Street and Cedar Parkway apparently sharing a marijuana cigarette. Officer Patterson arrived within minutes and spotted two teenagers walking away and he greeted them and asked if he could speak with them. As soon as Officer Patterson neared the pair, he smelled a strong odor of marijuana in the air around them.

Officer Hearn arrived to assist Officer Patterson. The officers identified the pair as a 16 year-old boy and a 16 year-old girl, both from Washington, DC. The boy admitted to possessing marijuana and paraphernalia, he produced the items and handed them to the officers. The young man was charged with possession of marijuana, a civil offense, via citation, and his parents were contacted. The boy was detained only long enough to issue the citation, and he was released on the spot. The marijuana and paraphernalia were seized as evidence.

The Village Police Department appreciates the call from the alert resident.

Nearby Brookville Pharmacy Robbed at Gunpoint

This is part of a trend of pharmacy robberies seeking narcotics

On Monday, March 25, 2019 shortly after 7:00 p.m. (closing time), as an employee was about to lock the back door at the Brookville Pharmacy in Martin's Additions, two men entered the back door from the parking lot, brandished a gun and demanded that the clerk give them narcotics medications. The narcotics were locked away and inaccessible to the clerk, so the robbers stole cash from the register, struck the clerk, and fled the store. They were last seen getting into a black car with tinted windows. Although the suspects had partially covered their faces, they were described by the victim as either Hispanic or black males.

Thieves have targeted pharmacies across the metropolitan area seeking opioid drugs for resale on the street. The Montgomery County Police Department's Robbery Section is investigating this crime.

Beware of a Phony 'PEPCO' Telephone Scam

Fraudulent callers threaten to shut off your electricity unless you pay them

There is no shortage of thieves or the methods that they use to try to separate us from our money. This scam presents a new variation on an old theme.

Within the last week, three Village residents reported that they received a call from a person claiming to be with PEPCO who tells them that their electricity will be shut off due to arrearages unless the resident pays a sum of money to PEPCO right away. The thief then provides an '800' phone number to the resident and directs the resident to call that number and pay 'PEPCO' over the phone. The wily thieves have created an authentic-sounding answering system so that, if a would-be victim were to call the 800 number, it will sound as if they have actually reached PEPCO's automated phone tree.

If you get a call like this, simply hang up. It is **not** PEPCO. Trust your gut on this. If you miss a payment to PEPCO, they know where you live; they'll bill you again. Do not fall for this scam. PEPCO is also aware of this scam.

These are a very old confidence games—but they continue to work. Don't be tricked by these thieves. Residents should keep the following in mind whenever the phone rings:

1. You do not have to answer your phone. If you have caller ID, look at it, and if you don't recognize the caller, ignore the phone.
2. Never!!! Repeat: never (as in never, ever) give any personal information to anyone who calls you. Bad things will happen. Don't do it. Period. Ignore the call.
3. If you happen to answer the phone and the person on the other end asks for money or information, hang up. Do not be courteous; just hang up.

Bicycle Taken from Screened Porch over the Weekend

Sometime between Friday evening (March 22, 2019) and Sunday morning (March 24, 2019), someone entered a screened porch of a home on Grafton Street between Kirkside Drive and Wisconsin Avenue. The thief apparently entered the locked porch by pushing the screen inward in order to reach through and turn the latch on the screen door. The thief took an adult bicycle that was likely visible from the street. Two kids' bikes were also on the porch, but they were not taken.

Spring is the time of year when bicycle thefts tend to spike. The Village Police Department recommends storing bicycles inside a locked garage or shed whenever possible. If storing a bike inside is not practical, we urge residents to lock their bicycles to a secure object to prevent easy theft.

If your bicycle is stolen, please report it to us right away. And please register your bicycle with the Village Police Department; or at a minimum, *record the serial number of all of your bicycles* and keep those numbers in a safe place. Without a serial number, we cannot identify your bicycle, we likely will not be able to arrest a suspected thief found on your bike, and police will not be able to return your bicycle to you if/when it is recovered.

And as always, please leave your exterior lights on all night long, and call the Village Police Department whenever you see or hear anyone that arouses your suspicions—especially at night.